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COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING PRACTICES,
EFFICIENCY, AND OPEN GOVERNMENT

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(PURSUANT TO S. RES. 111, 94TH CONGRESS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 4, 1976

Honorable Hugh E. Witt
Administrator
Office of Federal Procurement Policy
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office Of The President
New Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Hugh:

This is to inform you of the subcommittee's plans to hold oversight hearings on the OFPP.

We would like to time the hearings so that in addition to overseeing the operations and activities of OFPP in general, we might also concentrate on the progress being made in implementing the new OMB Circular A-109 on Major Systems Acquisition.

As you know from my letter of April 4, I am tremendously concerned that the Major Systems Circular become an operational reality within the full intent embodied in the Procurement Commission's Part C Report, as supplemented by the record of the subcommittee's eight days of hearings last year.

I realize that the six-month planning period for the agencies to implement A-109 will not expire until October 5 and that additional time would still be needed to form a true assessment of the agencies' compliance efforts. However, there is a strong possibility that the 94th Congress may adjourn sine die by early October. This, then, would necessitate holding our oversight hearings before the planning stage is completed, either in early August or mid-September (to accomodate congressional recesses).

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The early timing may have some disadvantages, but an essential benefit would be to allow those agencies truly committed to the Circular to note their progress and put some early serious pressure on those agencies which I understand are not making -- and do not at present appear intent on making -- adequate changes in their procedures to comply with A-109.

I will leave you to arrange the most mutually convenient dates with the Staff Director, Les Fettig, but I wanted to provide sufficient lead time for you to respond at the hearings to another request.

As you well know, every Federal agency and office is rightfully under the gun to justify its role and continued existence. There is no more effective way to do so than to talk in dollars and cents.

Therefore, between now and the oversight hearings, I would like you to develop dollar estimates of the savings which have been or could be generated by procurement reform activities completed or underway.

I realize it may be difficult to generate quantitative estimates of savings for many of the reform activities undertaken since OFPP began operation. Nevertheless, I would like to receive best estimates, even if in a range, as long as they are based on clearly understood assumptions that may be necessary. We have some preferences on the approach you take which I will leave you to coordinate with the sub-committee staff.

I am also writing to the Comptroller General to ask that the General Accounting Office provide whatever assistance you may require for this project.

As always, I wish to cooperate with and support you and the OFPP in its immense duties. I have tried to accommodate the views you expressed in your May 24 letter regarding

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contract disputes legislation which I introduced this week and look forward to a complete discussion of differences as the legislative process proceeds on this and other subjects.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,



LAWTON CHILES
Chairman

LC/da